

Remarks

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to limit the concentration range of the adduct of maleic anhydride and polybutadiene to 1.5 to 8 phr. Support is found in the specification as filed at page 13, lines 28 to 30, and at page 20, Table 5.

Claim 17 has been added to further limit the concentration of the adduct of maleic anhydride and polybutadiene to 1.5 to 6 phr. Support is found in the specification at page 20, Table 5.

Claims 18 and 19 have been added to further define what Applicants regard as the invention. Support is found in the specification as filed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 103

The claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Corvasce et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,672,639; hereinafter "Corvasce") in view of Huynh-Tran et al. (US2003/0152758, hereinafter "Huynh-Tran").

Applicants incorporate by reference the arguments regarding the showing of unexpected results previously presented in the Appeal Brief mailed March 27, 2006 and Reply Brief mailed January 25, 2007. Applicants urge that the claims as amended are now fully commensurate in scope with the showing of unexpected results in the specification, and as such the showing of unexpected results is sufficient to overcome *prima facie* obviousness of the claims.

Conclusion

Applicants urge that the amended claims are now fully patentable over the cited art.

Applicants respectfully request allowance of all claims.

Respectfully submitted,

/John D. DeLong/

John D. DeLong, Reg. No. 44,648

Attorney for Applicants

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Intellectual Property Law Department 823
1144 East Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44316-0001
Telephone: (330) 796-8757